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## An Admirable Choice

The heavy-framed, red-haired retired vice admiral appointed to head the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency already has demonstrated at least one qualification for the job. A few minutes before the President announced his selection, William F. Raborn Jr. was asked by a reporter if rumors of it were true. He replied, "I haven't heard a thing about it."

But considerably more than a tight lip is among the attributes demanded of the man heading the organization on which the Government must rely for information on both enemy and friend which both would rather not divulge. Admiral Raborn brings to the post a medal-bedecked Naval career with international overtones and a boosting appraisal by his peers which suggests that Mr. Johnson made a happy choice.

Such descriptions as a "no-nonsense attitude about any job" (which the square jaws seem to emphasize), "tremendous managerial ability," and "He can really cut through the fog" sound as if the CIA will be in capable hands.

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At home on the bridge as well as in the air (he qualified as a Naval aviator in 1934) Admiral Raborn made his greatest contribution to the service, and the country as well, heading the Navy's Special Project Office when it developed the Polaris missile system. The Distinguished Service Medal was a small reward for the scientific breakthroughs credited to the research command during the five years he was its director.

Activities of the CIA are so sen-

sitive that neither the number of its employees nor the sums of money it spends has ever been publicly revealed. Only months later, if ever, and then in the broadest terms, are any of its findings divulged. This is as it must be in the search for international secrets. Without the means to check on his competence in the job, the country must be assured when the director of intelligence disappears into this shadowy world that he is fitted for the task. The admiral admirably enjoys such confidence.